

Amendments to the Claims

Listing of the Claims

LISTING AND AMENDMENT OF THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-74 (cancelled)

75. (New) A transformer comprising:

a converter including an input for receiving media content formatted according to at least one of a plurality of media formats, said converter providing at least one media block corresponding to at least a portion of said media content, wherein said at least one media block begins with an integral frame, said converter providing a corresponding media block identifier for said at least one medial block;

a storage managing unit coupled to said converter to receive said at least one media block and said at least one media block identifier, said storage manager providing a corresponding storage address for said at least one media block;

a translator configured to provide said storage address based upon said media block identifier;

said transformer thereby enabling retrieval of stored media content based upon said media block identifier.

76. (New) The transformer of claim 75 wherein said converter input is coupled to the output of an encoder selected from the group comprising: MPEG, AVI and DIVX.

77. (New) The transformer of claim 76 wherein said media block is addressable by a start time indicator.

78. (New) The media content transformer of claim 74 further comprising:

at least one encoder coupled to said transform unit to provide media content comprising a time-sequence of digital frames to said media content transformer.

79. (New) The media content transformer of claim 76 wherein said transformer is configured to transform the time-sequence of digital frames into one or more sequential media blocks, each of the sequential media blocks comprising data representing a consecutive integral number of digital frames selected from the group comprising full frames and delta frames.

80. (New) The media content transformer of claim 77 wherein each media block begins with a whole frame.

81. (New) the media content transformer of claim 75 further comprising:
a storage manager for determining a storage address for each of the sequential media blocks;
a storing processor for storing each sequential media block at the storage address determined by said storage manager.

82. (New) The transformer of claim 75 wherein said converter input is coupled to the output of an MPEG encoder.

83. (New) The transformer of claim 75 wherein said media block includes a start time indicator.

84. (New) The transformer of claim 75 further comprising at least one encoder coupled to said transform unit to provide media content comprising a time-sequence of digital frames to said media content transformer.

85. (New) The media content transformer of claim 76 wherein said transformer is configured to transform the time-sequence of digital frames into one or more sequential media blocks, each of the sequential media blocks comprising data representing a consecutive integral number of digital frames selected from the group comprising full frames and delta frames.

86. (New) A network comprising:

a plurality of servers including at least one distribution server coupled to said data storage device and adapted to retrieve said at least one media content block based upon said media content identifier.

87. (New) A method for storing media comprising steps of:
 - receiving media content to be stored in at least one of a plurality of media formats;
 - converting at least a portion of said media content to at least one media block wherein said at least one media block begins with an integral frame;
 - providing a corresponding media block identifier for said at least one medial block;
 - providing a corresponding storage address for said at least one media block;
 - translating said media block identifier to said storage address,
 - thereby enabling retrieval of stored media content based upon said media block identifier.